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THE L I F E AND D E A T H OF Mother Shipton.

Being not only a true Account of her strange Birth; the most important Passages of her Life; but also all her Prophecies, now newly Collected, and Historically Explained, from the time of her Birth, in the Reign of King Henry the Seventh, until this present Year 1667. Containing the most Important Passages of State during the Reign of these Kings and Queens of England following,

Viz.	{ Henry the Eighth. Edward the Sixth Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth.	} King James King Charles the First. King Charles the Second.
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Strangely preserved amongst other Writings belonging to an old Monastery in York-shire, and now Published for the Information of Posterity.

Licens'd and Entred according to Order.

LONDON.

Printed for W. Harris, and are to be sold by him in Duncing-Alley, without Bishops-Gate. 1687.



Dr. William Cuseley, delin.

Charles Townley, fecit.

Mother Shipton.

From an Original Picture in the Possession of Ralph Cuseley Esq.



To happye that liues to see the daye.
 That happye the night. When the daye
 In the world. As the world is
 In the world. As the world is

Then shall he begin in the spring.
 And as he is in the spring.
 And as he is in the spring.
 And as he is in the spring.



Then wars shall begin in the Spring,
 Much woe to England it shall bring:
 Then shall the Ladies cry wel-away,
 That ever we liv'd to see this day.

Unhappy he that lives to see these dayes,
 But happy are the dead, Shiptons Wife sayes.
 In th' Worlds old age, this woman did foretelle,
 Strange things should hap, which in our times have fell.

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THE LIFE AND DEATH OF

Mother Shipton.

Being a true Account of her strange Birth, Education, and
Life, and the manner of her Death, which was attended
with extraordinary circumstances, and the manner of her
Burial, and the manner of her Resurrection, and the
manner of her Ascension, and the manner of her
Return, and the manner of her final Rest.

By Mrs. Anne
Shipton, the first.
And Mrs. Anne
Shipton, the second.

Printed by W. Shipton, at the Sign of the
Three Kings, in the Strand, near the
Church of St. Dunstons.

London, 1671.

LONDON.

Printed for W. Shipton, and are to be sold by him in Strand, near the
Church of St. Dunstons.

Beloved Countrey-men,

THe great Fame, and general received Opinion of *Mother Shipton*, with the Credit she hath obtained by those several *Prophecies* uttered by her, which since in the greatest measure have come to pass: These Considerations (I say) put me upon a Resolution to search out by my best endeavour, the Parents, Place, and Time wherein this *Mother Shipton* Flourished. Many old Manuscripts and rusty Records I turned over, but all in vain; at last I was informed by a Gentleman (whose Ancestors by the Gift of King *Henry* the Eighth, enjoyed a *Monastery* in those parts) that he had in his keeping some ancient Writings which would in that point satisfie my desire, were they not so injured by Time, as now not legible to Read; however, I not despairing to find out their meaning, with much Importunity desired to have a sight of them; which having obtained, I took of the best Galls I could get, beat them grossly, and laid them to sleep one day in good white-Wine, that done, I distilled them with the Wine; and with the distilled Water that came off them, I wetted handsomly the old Letters,

ters, whereby they seemed as fresh and fair, as if they had been but newly written; here did I find her Life and Prophecies copied out by an impartial hand, which I have in this Book presented to thy view, together with an Exposition upon her Prophecies, for the better understanding of them, and which may serve to them whose leifure will not permit to read, or want of money forbid to buy more Voluminous Authors; this (I say) may serve to them instead of a Chronicle, wherein they may find related the chiefest matters performed in each King and Queens Reign since the time wherein she flourished: much more might be added, but lest I should exceed the bounds of an Epistle, and like the Citizens of *Mindium*, make my Gates too bigg for my City, I shall here break off abruptly, wishing thee as much pleasure in the Reading thereof, as I had in the Writing of it; and so

Farwel.

R. Head.

POSTSCRIPT.

Courteous Reader, let me desire thee Candidly to pass over some seemingly Impossibilities in the first sheet, (allowing the Author Licentia Poetica in her description) and some Actions performed in her Minority; and only to weigh the more serious part of her Prophecies, wherein (if thou bee'st rational) I doubt not but thou wilt receive ample satisfaction.

The Contents.

CHAP. I.

VVhat her Father and Mother were, and what wonderful things happen'd at her Birth; as also the place of her Nativity.

CHAP. II.

How the Devil constantly visited her, in what forms and shapes, what strange things she did to those that offended her; harming some, and making sport with others.

CHAP. III.

How Agatha Shipton was apprehended; and brought before a Justice; what her Confession was, her Mitimus being made to be sent to Prison, how she escaped by the help of her friend the Fiend; she is retaken, and found with Child, is bail'd.

CHAP. IV.

What kind of shape Mother Shipton had when she was born; how she was put to Nurse at the charge of the Parish, and what strange things were seen in the house where she was Nurs'd, during the space of four years.

CHAP. V.

How Mother Shipton whilst but very young at Nurse, was daily visited by Spirits, in divers shapes and formes, and what pranks they plaid during her abode there.

CHAP. VI.

How Mother Shipton was put to School, learning more in a day, than ether Children could in a Month, how she was jeer'd by her School-fellows, for having such a monstrous long Nose, and what pranks she plaid upon them by way of Revenge, she now growing very famous.

CHAP. VII.

How several persons came to Mother Shipton for her Predictions, and how a rich Heire's being deceived by her Maid, fell sick and dyed.

CHAP. VIII.

Mother Shipton's Prophecies concerning Henry the Eighth's journey into France, of Cardinal Woolsey, and other things.

CHAP. IX.

Her prophecies to the Abbot of Beverly concerning the downfal of Abbyes, Nunneries, Priors, &c. with other things.

CHAP. X.

Her Prophecies concerning King Edward the Sixth, the Rebellion of the Commons, the Death of the Duke of Somerset, with other things.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Her Prophecies concerning the Death of the Lady Jane Grey, the burning of the Martyrs, of Wyats Rebellion, the Death of Queen Mary, and Cardinal Pool.

CHAP. XII.

Her Prophecies concerning the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, the change of Religion, the attempts of the Papists upon the Queen, the Spanish Invasion, the burning of Pauls Steeple, the death of the Queen of Scots, the reducing of Ireland, the beheading the Earl of Essex, &c.

CHAP. XIII.

The Prophecies of the Reign of King James, his uniting England and Scotland, his Peaceable Reign, a Learned time, the Powder Treason, the Marriage with the Prince Eleſtor and Lady Elizabeth, the Death of Prince Henry.

CHAP. XIV.

The Prophecies of the Reign of King Charles the First, his Marriage with France, the Murther of the Duke of Buckingham, the Scottish troubles, of the long Parliament, and Bloody Warr ensuing after the Execrable Murther of the King.

CAAP. XV.

The Reign of King Charles the Second, the Usurpation of Cromwel, the strange Confusion of a Demoratical Government, the Restauration of the King, the great Sickneſs, the Burning of the City of London.

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THE
L I F E and D E A T H
O F
Mother Shipton.

CHAP. I.

What her Father and Mother were, and what Wonderful things happened at her Birth, as also the place of Her Nativity.

IN the Second Year of King Henry the Seventh, which was the Year of our Lord One thousand four hundred eighty and six; there lived a Woman called *Agatha Shipton*, at a place called *Naseborough* near the *Dropping-Well* in *York-shire*. She came of poor Parentage, who died and left her to shift for her self, at the age of fifteen. After their decease, she still inhabited in the old House; but being now deprived of those helps she formerly enjoyed conducive to a lively hood, she was constrained to seek relief from the Parish; which she did, but with so much regret and grief, that she seemed in her begging rather to command Almes, than in an humble manner to desire it. At length she arrived to that pass, that she was upon the matter starving, rather than she would be beholding to the charity of any.

The Devil looking on her poverty to be great, and knowing her evil inclinations by her complexion (for you must understand, that the Divil is a good Scholar, well read in all things, and much acquainted with the constitutions of all sorts of persons.) I say, perceiving that she was willing to accept of any proposition to change her condition: He one time as she was sitting Melancholy under a Tree by a River side, accosted her in the form of a very handsome young man, well apparel'd with all things suitable to a youthful garb. Pretty Maid, (quoth he) Why dost thou sit so sad? Thy age is too slender for thy head! to be troubled with cares of the World; come tell me what is the matter, and if it lie within my power to assist thee (as I am sure it doth) thou shalt not want a friend of me.

Agatha casting up her eyes, and there seeing a face so lovely, could not suspect a Devil hid in that comely shape; whereupon in a lamentable tone she exprest all that troubled her, informing him of her great wants, and that knowing not how to work, she could not provide

what her necessities required: Pish (said the Devil) this is nothing, be ruled by me, and all shall be well; she told him she would; hereupon he ordered her to meet him at the same place the next day, and he would bring some friends along with him, for he told her he resolved to marry her; she promised him she would, and accordingly they met. He came riding upon a stately Horse, with a pillion behind him for his Spouse, attended by a great many Gallants (as they appeared) well mounted, and in a noble equipage.

His Divil-ships attendants soon conveyed his Mistress behind him, as she imagined; not in the least doubting the reality of all she saw.

They needed neither switch nor spur to hasten them forward, the Jades were fiery enough of themselves, and ran with that swiftness, that the wind could not overtake them in their full speed; soon they arrived at their journey's end, where seemed to be a very stately House, with a great pair of Gates, which at their approach opened by a Porter with his stick, in his Livery-gown: Alighting, she went in, where she saw a great many servants, which seemed at the sight of her and their Master, to show much respect and obeisance.

Now did the Devil command rich Garments to be brought, which she was immediately clothed with, and being thus richly attired, she was ushered into a great Hall, where was a long Table furnished with all the varieties the whole world could afford; at the upper end of which table she was placed; next her the Friend her intended husband; all the rest of the guests did place themselves as they thought fit. As they had the choicest cheer, so had they the best of Wines, and sweetest Musick.

Dinner being ended, they fell to Dancing; and now could my lecherous Devil stay no longer, but he must needs walk a corant with his Mistress into another private room, and there courted her to lust; the simple Girl consented, and so they both went to bed together, with the Ceremonies of Marriage. His touches (as she confessed to the Midwife that delivered her of her Devilish Offspring) were as cold as ice, or snow. After they had lain a little while together, he told her what he was, and what she must do hereafter, if she intended to live happy and delightful days. First, he told her that he was no Mortal, but a Spirit, immaterial, and not burdened by a body, nor hindered by any material thing: So that I can when I please pierce through the Earth and ran sack its Treasures, and bring what precious things I please from thence to bestow on those that serve me. I know all rare Arts and Sciences, and can teach thee as to whom I please: I can disturb the Elements, stir up Thunders and Lightnings, destroy the best of things which were created for the use of man, and can appear in what shape, or form I please. It will be too long to describe my power, or tell thee what I can do; but will only tell thee what thou shalt do. That being done, I will give thee power to raise Haile, Tempests, with lightning and Thunder; the Winds shall be at thy command, and shall bear thee, whither thou art willing to go, though never so far off; and shall bring thee back again, when thou shalt have a mind to return. The hidden Treasures of the Earth shall be at thy disposal and pleasure, and nothing shall be wanting to compleat thy happiness here. Thou shalt increase, or heal, or kill whom thou pleasest; destroy or preserve either man or beast; know what is past, and assuredly tell what is to come. Here note, by the way, the Devil is a liar from the beginning; and will promise more by ten millions, than he knows he is capable to perform, to the immortality, infame and damn a soul.

This poor ignorant wretch easily believed what this Grand Deceiver of Man-kind told her; and being ravish'd with the thoughts of being so highly prefer'd, she condescended to all the Devil would have her do: Whereupon he bid her say after him, in this manner: *Raziel, elimi bam mir am mizhar aia P son bon phanchia Raphael bowe runa tapu got am becaz mitz pbeat jarid zuman hapbeah Gabriel Heydon turpis dungeonis philonomistarkes Jophbecord bankim.*

After

After she had repeated these words after him, he pluckt her by the Groin, and there immediately grew a kind of Tet, which he instantly suckt, telling her that must be his constant Custom with her morning and evening; now did he bid her say after him again, *Kometzra-tuph Odel Phara's Tumbag in Gall Flemmingen Vi How Denmarke onto*, having finisht his last hellish speech, which the chieft of his Minions understand not, out of which none but the Devil himself can pick out the meaning; I say, it thundered so horribly, that every clap seemed as if the vaulted roof of Heaven had crackt and was tumbling down on her head; and withal that stately Palace which she thought she had been in, vanisht in a trice; so did her sumptuous apparel: and now her eyes being opened, she found her self in a dark doleful Wood; a place which from the Creation, had scarce ever enjoyed the benefit of one single Sun-beam. Whilst she was thinking what course to steere in order to her return, two flaming fiery Dragons appear'd before her tied to a Chariot, and as she was consulting with her self what was best to be done, she insensibly was hoisted into it, and with speed unimaginable conveyed through the Air to her own poor Cottage.

CHAP. II.

How the Devil constantly visited her, in what Formes and Shapes; what strange things she did to those that offended her, harming some, and making sport with others; and at length brought to Bed of a Child, which is now commonly called, Mother Shipton.

BEing come home, the Neighbours flockt about her, having mist her two or three daies, they were all amazed, to see such a strange alteration in her countenance, in so short a time; and here the Proverb was verified in her: *She lookt as if a Hagg had rid her*. Before she met with this wanton Devil, she lookt plump and fresh, which were all the good qualities she had in her ill featured face; but now that red plumpness vanisht, and there was nothing to be seen but a pale shriveled skin on her cheek, which for want of flesh seemed to fall in her mouth, to be devoured by her hunger-starved jaws. Those about her which were charitable minded, pittied her, comforted and gave her moneys, which with a great deale of disdain and scorn she threw them, saying, she wanted not, nor stood in need of their Almes; for look ye here (said she) is money enough, plucking her hand out of her pocket, the people drawing near her, discovered that what was in her hands, was nothing else but some *Aspin-leaves*: and notwithstanding, they endeavoured to perswade her that she was mistaken in supposing that to be money, yet she would not believe them; so strong a Power the Devil had gotten over her already.

In fine, she did bid them all be gone, for now she began to take little delight in humane Society: It was not long that they had left her, before the Devil (with whom she made an Hellish Contract,) came in to see her, in the same hand some young form as he first appeared unto her, telling her that he came to supply the company of those she had wisely dismiss, that she needed not the society of any humane creature, for he would not fail to be constantly with her; always bringing with him what should not onely serve for a bare Livelihood, but her Delight, Pleasure, and Satisfaction: Hereupon by the Devil's command, there instantly appeared seemingly, a compleat noise of Musick, with Dishes of Meat, great variety

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

ety of the choicest and most pleasing sort; which so ravished *Agatha*, that she fell to the ground in a profound and deep trance. One of her Neighbours coming in this while, wondered to see *Agatha* lying on the floor motionless; however out of pity and commiseration, she kneeled down, and having cross her self, and said a short prayer, she endeavour'd to waken *Agatha*, but using what means she could, it all signified nothing; she shook and pinch'd her, and pulled her by the nose, yet still she lay insensibly: This Neighbouring-woman being strangely amazed and scared hereat, ran out amongst the rest of the Neighbours, crying out, that poor *Agatha Shipton* was suddenly struck dead, and so desired them to go into the house with her, and they should there be the eye-witnesses of the truth thereof; whereupon several went and found what this woman had said, to be seemingly true; but one wiser then the rest, stooped down, and perceiving that she breathed, spake aloud, Friends ye are all mistaken, *Agatha* is not dead, but in a trance, or else she is bewitched; she had scarce uttered these words before *Agatha* began to stir; and soon after, raised her self on her leggs, crying out in a very distracted tone, What make ye here, vile wretches? Cannot I enjoy my pleasures, but ye must be Eves-dropping? get ye gone, as having nothing to do here; and hereupon she fell a dauncing, which they wondered at because they could hear no Musick. At length, *Agatha* turning about, and seeing they were not gone; said, if ye are resolved thus to disturb me, and will not go, I will make ye: this something affrighted them, for they now verily believed she was a witch; and as they were halting away with all imaginable speed, a sudden strong wind hoisted them a great height into the air, falling all to the ground again without the least harm, onely some shame to the women, for they descended with their heads downwards, and their coats over their ears, their lower parts appearing all naked to the astonished spectators; the men were seen like over-grown Goats with large horns on their heads, and women riding on their backs: which sights as they produced inexpressible wonder, so amidst their amazement, they could not but burst out into excessive laughter.

This wonderful and unexpected exploit, was instantly noised all about the Countrey, which occasioned a great resort of people to the place where *Agatha* lived; which so perplexed her by their undesired visits, that she resolved within her self to be revenged on some of them; which by the Devils help she effected; mischieving some in their persons, others in their cattel, and others in their credits: one had a Horse that dyed suddenly, and being opened, there was found in his stomach fish-hooks, and hair, instead of hay and oats. Another going to sit down at Table with persons of good quality at dinner-time, and thinking himself very spruce and fine, had in an instant his Ruffe pull'd off, and the Seat of an House of Office clapt on in its place, he that sate next him, breaking out into a great laughter at the sight thereof, was served little better; for his Hatt was invisibly conveyed away, and the Pan of a Close-stool which stood in the next room, put on instead thereof; A modest young Gentlewoman which did sit at the Table at that time, and was come on no other errand but to see this young witch which was so much talked of; looking on these two worthy spectacles of laughter, endeavour'd all she could to refrain laughing, but could not, and withall continued fasting for above a quarter of an hour; this made them all laugh so extremly, that the Master of the house was alarum'd (below) therewith, and being desirous to share with his Guests in their mirth, came running up stairs as fast as his leggs would carry him, about to enter the door, he could not, and no wonder, since the oldest man living, never saw a larger pair of horns then he had on his head: Whilst they were gazing one on another as more then half distracted, they were all reduced to the same condition they were in before; after which there followed a noise, as if an hundred persons were laughing together, but nothing at all was seen.

These

These persons fearing something worse might befall them if they staid any longer, made all the haste they could to be gone: *Agatha* knowing their intent, resolved to take her farewell of them by serving them one trick more, which was thus; As they were about to mount on Horseback, they were pelted with rotten apples, dung, and stuff that smelt worse then can be imagined. As they rid through the Town, such men as thought they rid singly, were all observed to have behind them each man a deformed old woman; and as their faces differed'd all one from another, so did their habits, which were all tatter'd and ragged, and patcht with a hundred colours; fear, shame and the hooting of the people, made them put spurs to their Horses, neither did they forbear the switch, nor any thing that might add speed to their Horses heels; so that it may be said, they rather flew than rode; how could it be otherwise? *for needs must he go whom the Devil drives.*

Coming home, they declare what wonderful things they had seen performed, though by a young one, yet as they believed, the greatest witch in the world: this news being so generally spread, came at length to the ear of the Justices, who now thought it high-time to question and bring into examination a person that was so much talked of, and might, if let alone, do a great deal of mischief.

CHAP. III.

How Agatha Shipton was apprehended and brought before a Justice; what her Confession was, her Mitimus being made to be sent to Prison; how she escaped by the help of her friend, the Fiend; she is retaken, and being found with Child, is bail'd.

Agatha is now no longer suspected, but plainly known to be a witch, doing something or other daily which was very remarkable; she hath been frequently observed to walk alone muttering to her self, and having been watcht by some, they have seen her stamp upon the ground thrice, then wound her hands over her head, lastly, she spake one word thrice, and in the twinkling of an eye, the skie hath been dark and gloomy, though clear before, which belcht out nothing for half an hour but flames, thundering after a most hideous manner.

But now the time draws on, wherein she must give an accompt for what she hath done, and in order thereunto, she is apprehended by two resolute fellows, who were not a whit daunted when they entred the house, though Toads, Adders, and such like noisome creatures crawled up and down the house, but could not chuse but be much startled when they had seiz'd her and were carrying her, to hear such a terrible crack of thunder, the house at that time reeling to and fro like a Cradle.

However they carryed her before the Justice, where being brought, she was strictly examined by him; she not a jot daunted, told him that she had more authority then he, and that notwithstanding his power, she could command one that could over-rule him vvhen he list; That she was a Princess, and could have at her beck a thousand Spirits of the Air, and as many of the Earth and Water; That she could raise a Tempest presently, that should overturn his house about his ears; and that you may know, it lyes not in your power to detain me, three words shall procure my liberty: hereupon she said *Updraxi*, call *Stygicon Hellux*, she had no scarce uttered the last word, before there came in a horrid winged-Dragon, which immediately took her up, and carried her away from the amazed Justice and Attendants about him, half dead with fear.

This so affrighted all that heard of it, that none would undertake to meddle with her more;

more; so that she had a considerable time of respite. But she now began to be more admired than before, being discovered by the great swelling of her Belly, to be with Child: The people could not tell what to think, or who should be the Father, concluding that none would be so vile and wicked, as to have Copulation with a Devil Incarnate; neither could they believe a Spirit had either desire or power, to generate with any humane Creature; while people were generally passing their verdicts on *Agatha*, she was once more taken and brought before a Justice, and amongst other questions, was asked, whether she was with Child, she acknowledged it; nay farther, that it was begot by no mortal Wight: The Justice gave no credit to what she said, as looking on her as an ignorant seduced Woman; and so askt her what Bail she could produce, intending to defer the business till she was Delivered; in this very nick of time two Gentlemen as they appeared by their habits, voluntarily proffered themselves, which as soon as accepted for Baile, vanish't presently, however *Agatha* had permission to go home.

CHAP. IV.

What kind of Shape Mother Shipton had when she was born: How she was put to Nurse at the charge of the Parish; and what strange things were seen in that House where she was Nurs'd, during the time of four years.

THe usual time of forty weeks being expired, her Mother after many strange and horrible torments which she underwent in her Travel, was at last delivered (by the rare skil and industry of her Midwife, and others of that Sex) of her which is now called, *Mother Shipton*, which proved the conclusion of her miserable life. But her entry into the World was such a terror to all that beheld her, that several credible persons then present, have several times confess'd, that they never beheld the like: Such strange and horrible noises, that the persons concern'd about her, could scarce find so much courage in themselves as to continue in the place where she was; much less when they beheld the strange and unparallel'd Physiognomy of the Child; which was so misshapen; that it is altogether impossible to express it fully in words; or the most ingenuous to Limn her in colours, though many persons of eminent qualifications in that Art have often attempted it, but without success; therefore according to the best observations of her, take this true, though not full account of her features, and body: she was of an indifferent height, but very morose and big bon'd, her head very long, with very great goggling, but sharp and fiery eyes, her nose of an incredible and unproportionable length, having in it many crooks and turnings, adorned with many strange Pimples of divers colours, as red, blew, and mixt, which like Vapours of Brimston gave such a lustre to her affrighted Spectators in the dead time of the Night, that one of them confess'd several times in my hearing, that her Nurse needed no other light to assist her, in the performance of her duty: Her Cheeks were of a black swarthy Complexion, much like a mixture of the Black and yellow jaundies; wrinkled, shrivell'd and very hollow; in so much, that as the Ribs of her Body, so the impression of her teeth were easily to be discerned, through both sides of her face; answering one side to the other, like the notches in a Valley; excepting only two of them which stood quite out of her mouth, in imitation of the Tusks of a wild Bore, or the Tooth of an Elephant, a thing so strange in an Infant, that no age can Parallel: Her Chin was of the same Complexion as her Face, turning up towards her mouth, and shrieks being heard, from an unknown cause, as if there had been a more than an ordinary correspondence between her Teeth and it. Her

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

7

Her Neck so strangely distorted, that her right shoulder was forced to be a supporter to her head, it being propt up by the help of her Chin, in such sort, that the right side of her body stood much lower than her left; like the reeling of a Ship that sails with a side winde. Again, her left side was quite turned the contrary way, as if her body had been sciew'd together piece after piece; and not rightly placed: her left shoulder hanging just Perpendicular to her Fundament.

Her Legs very crooked and mishapen: The Toes of her feet looking towards her left side; so that it was very hard for any person (could she have stood up) to guess which road she intended to steer her course; because she never could look that way she resolved to go.

After she had remained under the care of her Nurse, for the space of a Moon; or thereabouts, her Mother being unable to provide for her, she was put out to Nurse at the charge of the Parish, to a Poor Woman hard by in the Town, where she continued for the space of half a year or thereabouts, the house not being any waies disturbed at all, till at last her Nurse having been abroad amongst some of the chief of the Parishioners, either to procure something of their Charity for her subsistence, and the maintenance of her Family, or else to fetch her money from the Overseers of the Poor, for Nursing the Child; and returning home to her House, she found her dores unbard and wide open, whereat she much amazed and affrighted, ran to her next Neighbour, and acquainted her that she was quite undone, for her house was broken open and robbed; the man immediately riseth from his Dinner, carrying his bread and Cheese in his hand, accompanied with his Wife and another labouring man; approaching the door, endeavoured to enter, but before they could all get quite in, there was immediately a very strange noise heard in the next Room to them, as if it had been a consort of Cats, which so affrighted them, that they all ran towards the door endeavouring to get out again but it was in vain; for at their approach there were great long yokes about their Necks, in the form of a Cross, or turned stile; so that they could not possibly return; and while they were thus striving and crying out for help; their yokes at last fell off, and a coule-staff, or Brewers-sling laid upon the mens shoulders; upon which an old Woman presented her self naked, some times hanging by the Heels, sometimes by the Toes, anon by the Middle; with divers other postures, they continuing for the space of near half an houre, in such sort, that the poor men were never more tired in clearing of Leggs, nor less pleased at any thing than in being constrained to humour this piece of heliish activity.

After they had got a discharge from this their new employment, the house being now quiet, and they a little recovered their senses, and missing the women, they ran further into the house, where at last they found them lying flat upon their bellies, their clothes being turned backwards over their heads; two great black Cats were playing *Hocus-Pocus* upon their postlers, which the men in vain attempted to drive away, until at last their own slavery procured the womens freedom from that employment, though they changed not much for the better; for as they were coming out of that Room, in the next there stood a pair of Yarn-winkles, made in the form of a Cross, upon which the women use to put great skains of Yarn, that so they may wind it off with more ease and less trouble: These being placed in the middle of the Room, the two men and two women were forced to take the four ends thereof in their hands, and so daunce round about the Room one after the other, until such time as they were almost tired to death, carrying upon every one of their shoulders an Imp in the likeness of a Monkey or Ape, which hung close upon them; and when ever they slackned their pace, these Sprits pricked them forward, continuing this recreation for a very considerable time; and being cloy'd with this kind of diversion, they vanished quite out of

of sight, leaving these poor wretches as weary, as astonished; who (notwithstanding) no sooner perceived themselves at liberty, but they presently quitted the house, and soon after addressed themselves to several of the Neighbourhood, acquainting them with what had happened, which caused great amazement amongst them, and immediately the whole Town was in an uproar; and the Minister and several of the most eminent Inhabitants, consulted together what the occasion thereof should be, and what to do in the business, some of them threatening the informers; others thinking they were distracted: But at last they resolved to go to the House; yet when they came near, there arose a great dispute amongst them who should first enter, which at last was agreed upon; and the Parson (with his Congregation attending him in the rear;) gave them the first onset, and entering the door quivering and shaking, they heard the Nurse-Child cry in a most hideous and dolefull manner; whereupon there was suddenly a noise like the treading of people upon stones, though the house in any place had no other than an earthen floor; at which the Child ceased, and a very sweet musical harmony of several notes was heard, and all presently vanished again: after which the Minister and Inhabitants entering, and searching the House, and at length missing the Child, one of them looking up the Chimney, saw the Cradle wonderfully hanging about three yards high without any support; which being as strangely conveyed down again: they encouraged the Nurse, and leaving her in the House (though affrighted) they departed for the present.

CHAP. V.

How Mother Shipton whilst but very young at Nurse, was daily Visited by Spirits, in divers Shapes and Formes; and what Pranks they play'd during her abode there.

Mother Shipton now grew apace, and as her stature encreased, so did her deformity: Her supposed Father (the foul fiend) omitted not a day wherein he visited not the House where she was, sometimes visibly in the form of a Cat, Dog, Bat, or Hog; at other times, invisibly by noises, so terrible, as it so affrighted the Nurse, that she oftentimes resolved to deliver up her charge, and forsake her habitation; sometimes she came in a pleasant humour, either singing or playing on an Instrument, which was usually a Scotch Bag-pipe.

Her Nurse sometimes was in great perplexity, not knowing what was become of her, for an whole day together; but when she was in her greatest search after her, she saw her oftentimes drop through the Roof of the House: Going out, upon her return, she many times found her Child stretcht out to a prodigious length, taller than the tallest living, and at other times as much decreast or shortned. The poor womans work for the major part, was only to rectifie what these Spirits disordered about her House; the Chairs and Stools would frequently march up stairs and down, and they usually plaid below at Bowles with the Trenchers and dishes: Going to dinner, the meat was removed before she could touch a bit of it, which things as they much troubled the Nurse, so they gave much satisfaction to *Mother Shipton*; as it appeared by her Monstrous smiles: Now and then to pacifie her Nurse, when she saw her much vext hereat, she would say, be contented, be contented, there is nothing here will harm you.

To be short, the Nurse was so continually terrified by these apparitions, that she resolved to complain to the Parish; and having made known the truth of what had pass, in commiseration to the woman almost distracted, they removed *Mother Shipton* to another place, where she was put to School, being of an age now fitting for it.

CHAP. VI.

How Mother Shipton was put to School, learning more in a day, then other Children cou'd in a Month: how she was jeered by her School-fellows, for having such a monstrous long Nose: and what pranks she plaid upon them; by way of Revenge; growing now very famous.

Mother Shipton was now grown a lusty Girl; and as she was left to the care of the Parish, so the Parish took care that she should have the common sort of Learning; that is to say, Reading and Writing bestowed upon her. Comming to School, her Mistris began to instruct her, as other Children, beginning with the Cris-cross-row as they call'd it, showing and naming onely three or four Letters at first, but to the amazement and astonishment of her Mistris; she exactly pronounced every Letter in the Alphabet without teaching. Hereupon her Mistris, shewed her a Primer, which she read aswel at first sight, as any in the School, and so proceeded in any Book was shewn her.

As this produced wonder in her School-Mistris; so hatred and envy in her Comrades; some flouted her for her monstrous long Nose, others endeavoured to beat her, and all strove to mischief her; but she valued them not, revenging her self upon every one of them, that intended her harm. Some were Pinch't, and yet no hand seen that did it; others struck speechless when they were about to say their Lessons, not being able to utter a word; and none escaped from being served one scurvy trick, or other. This so enraged the Parents of these Children, looking on *Mother Shipton* the sole cause hereof; that she was discharged the School, and so left to the wide World.

She hath been often seen when alone, to laugh heartily; at other times to talk by her self, uttering very strange riddles, which occasioned some of the more sober sort to converse with; her, receiving such strange things from her, as required a long study to find out the meaning.

Never a day passed, wherein she related not something very remarkable, and required the most serious consideration. And now it was that people flockt to her far and near, (her fame was so great) to be resolv'd of their Doubts, all returning wonderfully satisfied in the Resolution of their questions.

CHAP. VII.

How several Persons came to Mother Shipton, for her Predictions; and how a rich Heire being deceived by her Maid, fell sick of Grief, and dyed.

And now *Mother Shipton* beginning to grow famous in the World, for her notable Judgment in things to come: There resorted to her House a number of people, of all sorts, both old and young, rich and poor; Especially, of the female Sex, viz. Young Maids and Wenches, who have alwaies a great Itching desire, to know when they shall be Married; as also, what manner of Husbands they shall have; to which she gave such satisfactory answers, both for the Persons, and time; that no sooner could a young Maid get into the Teens but,

but she would presently trot to *Mother Shiptons*, to be resolved of her doubt. Now though she were not Mercenary her self, but refused great Gifts, when proffered unto her; yet did she keep a young Wench, who rather than fail, if they forgot to open their purse to her, she would remember to open her mouth to them, and tell them, that her Dame *Shipton*, nor she, could not be maintained with thanks, but that the belly required meat to feed it; and that it was money which made the Mare to go. One day there came a certain young Heir thither, whose Father was sick, to be resolved by her, whether he should live or die; but *Mother Shipton* could by no means be wrought upon to tell him any thing; whereupon he proffered the Maid great store of Money, if she could by any means perswade her Dame, to fulfil his request; the Wench greedy of Money, promised him fair; and that if he would come the next Morning, he should be certain to be resolved; in the mean time, she importuned her Dame with the most cunning Rhetorick that she could invent; but she was deaf to all entreaties, and would by no means be induced thereto, whereupon the Wench resolved with her self, rather than to lose the money, to give him an answer of her own intention; which the next morning she performed in these words.

*The Grave provided hath a Room,
Prepare for Death, thy Hour is Come.*

The young Gentleman having received this answer, went home very joyfully, hoping presently to reap the Golden Crop which his Father had sown, and to be in an instant, possessed of all his vast estate; but the sequel proved quite contrary; for by that time he came home, great hopes of amendment appeared in his Father, who each day grew better and better, so that in a short time he became perfectly well. This unexpected recovery of the old man, struck such a dump in our young Heir, that he presently took his Bed, fell extreme sick, and in a short time grew so extraordinary ill, that all the symptoms of a dying man appeared in him: The old man, who had carked and cared all his life time for his Son, (having no more Children but he) was very desirous of his life, and to know whether he should recover; whereupon he sent to *Mother Shipton* about the same; who knowing by her Art, what her Maid had done, sufficiently did chide her for the same; threatening upon such another offence, to turn her out of her service. In the mean time, the Messenger was come to her Houfe, who having delivered his errant, was returned back with this answer.

*For others Deaths who do gape out,
Their own unlook't for, comes about:
Earth he did seek, ere long shall have,
Of Earth his fill, within his Grave.*

The old man having received this answer, was much troubled, as thinking his own Death predicted thereby, not imagining in the least, what his Son had done; but he was soon quit of that suspicion, for within two daies the young man dyed; when by a Servant (who knew the passages) he was informed the truth of the whole matter.

CHAP. VIII.

Mother Shipton's Prophecies concerning King Henry the Eighth's journey into France; of Cardinal Wolsey, and other things.

ABout this time, some differences arising betwixt King Henry the Eighth, and the French King; great preparations of War were made in England, the Drums beating in every County, to summon Voluntary Valour to express it self, in defence of their King and Country: Many Heroick Spirits, who made Honour their Aime, not dreading any dangers for the attaining thereof, now lifted themselves *Belona's* followers: so many appearing under *Mar's* Banner, that he who was furnished with Limbs, and an Estate, to decline the Service, was adjudged a Coward. There was then living in the North, a young Heir, who was newly come to his Estate, one whose Tongue was all fire, and his heart all ire, who would kill Thousands with words, but durst not adventure to do any thing in deeds. This Gallant being by some of his equals, pricked on to make his appearance in the fields of *Mars*, and not to lie sleeping at home, when Fame summoned him forth to Action, he knew not what to doe in this case; loath was he to lose his loved Life, and yet the aspersions of a Coward, though to a Coward himself, is of all things most odious: He therefore promised them fair; that come should be more willing than he, to spend his blood in the quarrel of that Country, from whence he received his dearest life; but yet resolved with himself, not to set one step forward in that path of danger, till he had first consulted with *Mother Shipton*, concerning what success he should have in his journey; if bad, he was resolved by a feigned sickness to evade, thinking it no policy for a man to part away with that life in an instant, which with great cost and care, had been many years in bringing up.

Hereupon he hasts to our Northern Prophetess, acquaints her with his Condition, and very earnestly desires of her (as she to whom nothing was unhid) that she would unfold to him whether good, or bad fortune should be his attendant, in this his Expedition. *Mother Shipton* though she perceived his sheeple's courage to be every way unanswerable to that of a Soldier, yet foreknowing what should come to pass, returned him this answer; which without more ado, fully satisfied him to proceed, and perform what he had promised; the answer was this.

When the English Lyon shall set his paw on the Gallique shore, then shall the Lillies begin to droop for fear: There shall be much weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country; because the Princely Eagle shall join with the Lyon, to tread down all that shall oppose them; and though many Sagittaries shall appear in defence of the Lillies, yet shall they not prevail; because the dull Animal of the North shall put them to Confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them. Now shall the Mired Peacock first begin to plume, whose Train shall make a great show in the World, for a time; but shall afterwards vanish away, and his great Honour come to nothing; which shall take its end at Kingtomb.

The Explanation of the Prophecy.

By the English Lyon was meant the King of England; and by setting his Paw on the Gallique shore, the Landing of his Army in France, which not long after he did; by the Lillies beginning to droop for fear, was signified the great trouble and perplexity of the French, the Lillies being the Armes of France; the weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country, denotes

notes the miseries and destructions incident to War, the Sword, Famine, Destruction and Desolation being inseparable Companions; by the *Princely Eagle* joyning with the *Lyon*, and *treading down all that should oppose them*, is meant *Maximilian* the German Emperor (whose Armes were the *Eagle*) who not only joyned in Amity with King *Henry*, but also took wages of him, and served him in his Wars as an hired Soldier; by the *Sagittaries that appeared in defence of the Lillies*, was meant the *French Cavalry*, the chief strength of *France*, consisting of Horse-men, who appearing like *Sagittaries*; that is to say, half Men, and half Horses, gave *Mother Shipton* to use that expression; and whereas it is said, *yet they should not prevail*, it fell out so accordingly; for notwithstanding, all the oppositions of the *French Armies*, King *Henry* proceeded on vigorously, conquering and taking several towns of importance, as *Tourney*, *Bulloign*, &c. But to come to that which most nearly concerns the matter, viz. the success of our young Heir, in this expedition, which was hinted forth unto him in these words, *because the dull Animal of the North, shall put them to Confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them*; by the *dull Animal of the North*, was meant this fresh water Soldier, who according to the Prophecie, put the *Frenchmen* to confusion, and great shame; for passing the Seas with King *Henry*, being mounted on a stately Horse, as both Armies confronted each other, he being in the Head of the *Battel*, just before the Charge, some body striking his Horse, the Jade carried him perforce upon the Enemy, with such violence, as put their front into some disorder, which being perceived by our men, they presently so seconded him, that in fine, the *French* very fairly ran away, leaving the *English* a glorious victory, purchased with a little cost.

By this means was *Mother Shipton's* Prediction fulfilled to the disgrace of the *French*, and great praise of the young Gallant; for the rest of the Prophecie, the Interpretation thereof runs thus.

By the *Myrtred Peacock* was intended *Cardinal Wolsey*, signified by that Bird, because of his great Pride, who being but a poor Butlers son of *Ipswich* in *Suffolk*, grew to such height, that he thought himself Superior to the chief Nobles of the Land, living in such splendor as not to be Parallel'd, according to the Prophecie: *Whose Train shall make a great show in the World*; and whereas it is said, *the Peacock should then begin to plume*, so it was, that when King *Henry* had taken the City of *Tourney* in *France*, he made *Wolsey* Bishop thereof, who soon after rose to the highest degree of Honour a Subject could be capable of, which afterwards (as the Prophecie saies) *vanished away, and his great Honour came to nothing*. And lastly, whereas it is said, *he should have his end at Kingston*; the Cardinal being told of this Prophecy, would never pass through the Town of *Kingston*, though lying directly in the Road, from his own House to the Court; but afterwards being arrested of High Treason, by the Earl of *Northumberland* and Sir *Anthony Kingston* the Lieutenant of the Tower sent unto him, his very name (remembering this Prophecie) struck such a terror to his heart, that he soon after expired.

CHAP. IX.

Her Prophecie in the Abbot of Beverly, concerning the downfal of Abbeyes, Nunneries, Priories, &c. with other things.

MOther Shiptons Predictions coming thus effectually to pass, spread her Fame far wider than it was; insomuch, that many who before looked upon her as a crack-brain'd Woman, now began to admire her, and to esteem of her words as Oracles. And as the nature of English people is, rather to desire to know what is to come, than to seek to rectifie ought what is done amiss; so the greatest part of her visitants, came only to be resolved, of what she knew, would come to pass, of which number was the Abbot of Beverly, who fearing the downfal of Religious Houses, and a change of the Religion then professed, putting on the counterfeite Clothes of a Lay-person, he came to Mother Shiptons, and knocking at the dore, she being within, called to him, and said, Come in Mr. Abbot, for you are not so much disguised, but the Fox may be seen, through the Sheeps skin; it is not those Clothes makes you a Lay-person, no more than a Long-Gown, makes a man a Lawyer; come, take a stool and sit down, for you shall not goe away unsatisfied of what you desire, and thereupon she began to utter forth her Prophecies in this sort.

*When the Cow doth ride the Bull,
Then Priests beware thy Scull.
And when the lower Shrubs do fall,
The great Trees quickly follow shall.
The Miter'd Peacocks lusty Pride,
Shall to his Master be a Guide.
And one great Court to Pass shall bring,
What was neer done by any King.
The Poor shall Grieve, to see that Day,
And who did Fast, must Fast and Pray.
Fate sa Decreed their Overthrow,
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought Woe.*

These Prophecies was thus Explained; by the Cow was meant King Henry, who gave the same, by reason of the Earldom of Richmond, which was his Inheritance; and the Bull be-tokneth Mrs. Anne Bullough, whom the King took to Wife, in the room of Queen Catharine, her Father gave the Black Bulls head in his Cognizance, and was his Beast; and when the King had married Queen Anne, then was fulfilled the second line of the Prophecie, viz. then Priests beware thy Scull; for what a number of Priests Religious and Secular, lost their heads, for offending of those Laws made to bring this matter to pass.

*And when the Lower Shrubs do fall,
The great Trees quickly follow shall.
The Miter'd Peacocks lusty Pride,
Shall to his Master be a Guide.*

Cardinal Wolsey (who is here intended by the Miter'd Peacock) in the height of his Pride, and

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

and vastness of his undertakings, intending to erect two fair Colledges, one at *Ipswich* where he was born, the other at *Oxford* where he was bred; and finding himself unable to endow them at his own Charges; he obtained License of *Pope Clement* the Seventh, Anno 1525, to suppress forty small Monasteries in *England*, and to lay their old Lands to his new Foundations, which was done accordingly; and the poor People that lived in them, turned out of doors; many of the Clergy were very much against this action of *Wolseys*, especially, *John Fisher*, Bishop of *Rochester*, alledging for the same an *Apologue* out of *Aesop*, that the Iron Head of the Axe, craved a handle of the Wood of Oaks, only to cut off the seere boughs of the Tree; but when it was a compleat instrumental Axe, it felled down all the Wood: applying it That the suppressing of those smaller Houses, would in fine, prove Destructive to all the rest; which came to pass accordingly; for King *Henry* seeing the Cardinals power to extend so far, as to suppress these lower Shrubs, he thought his Prerogative might stretch so far, as to fell down the Great Trees; and soon after dissolved the Priory of *Christs Church* nigh Aldgate in *London*, now known by the Name of *Dukes-place*, and which was the richest in Lands, and Ornaments, of all the Priories in *London*, or *Middlesex*; and which was a fore-runner of the Dissolution of all the rest; and which not long after came to pass.

*And one great Court to pass shall bring,
What was ne'er done by any King.*

By the Great Court, is meant the Parliament, the Supreamest Court of *England*; who in the Twenty seventh of King *Henry's* Reign, Anno 1539. To support the Kings States, and supply his wants, conferred on the Crown, all Religious Houses, which were not able clearly to expend above Two hundred pounds a year; the great ones not long after following the same fortune of the smaller, which was ne'er done (though attempted) by any King before.

The Poor shall grieve to see that Day.

The Abbots and Priors being most bountiful House-keepers, relieving all comers and goers, got themselves much reputation for their Hospitality.

And who did Feast, must Fast and Pray.

By the Dissolution of these Houses, many thousands were driven to seek their fortunes in the wide World, and become utterly exposed to want, when Monkish profession was without possession; many a young Nun proved an old Beggar, and were forced to fast for want of Viſuals, who formerly, had it provided for them, to their hands.

*Fate so Decreed their overthrow.
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought woe.*

The great Riches and Pride of the Monks and Fryars was (no doubt) the main cause of their overthrow; for whatsoever was the pretence, unquestionless profit was the Rope which pulled these Religious Houses down.

All these things coming to pass before such time as this Abbot died, caused him to have a great esteem of *Mother Shipton*, and to value her Prophecies more than ordinary conjectures; though at first, he could not tell what to make of her Ambiguous Lines, which like the

Oracles

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

15

Oracles, formerly delivered at *Delpbos*; rather brought one into a Labyrinth of confused conjectures, then satisfied the expectation, until by the Clue of Time, the Riddles were manifest, and that which at first seemed so hard, now appeared to the understanding, as easie: However, he at present kindly thanked *Mother Shipton*, and liberally rewarded her Maid (who else would have put him in mind of his neglect) much admiring, that she should be so clear-sighted, as to see through his counterfeit Dress; resolving afterwards to be more informed by her, concerning future events; he at that time took his solemn leave of her, and returned home.

CHAP. X.

Her Prophecies concerning King Edward the Sixth: the Rebellion of the Commons: The Death of the Duke of Somerset, with other things.

Not long had the *Abbot* been at home, but his *Abby* was visited by some Instruments employed by the Lord *Cromwel* for that purpose. He who knew what was intended by this Complement, thought it not safe to strive against the Stream, and therefore quietly surrendred his *Monastery*, into the Kings hands. And now perceiving *Mother Shiptons* Prophecy plainly fulfilled, in the downfall of those Houses, which were judged Impregnable, against all the assaults of Malice and time; Considering the strange Revolutions of so short a space: he was very desirous to be more fully informed of the future. In this Resolution he repairs again to *Mother Shiptons*, whom he now accosts more familiarly, than he did before, making him self plainly known unto her; telling her that as what she had formerly spoken, he had found to be true in the event; so his Judgment perswaded him, she was not ignorant of those things which were for the future to ensue; and therefore desired her, she would not be nice in imparting of this her fore-knowledge unto him; for which so great favour, though it were more than his deserts could Command, yet should there never in him be wanting a grateful tongue to acknowledge, and a grateful heart to be thankful unto her, for so great a favour.

Mr. Abbot (said she) leave off Complementing, as more fit for Courtiers, and Lovers, and not agreeable to an old Woman, who will neither flatter, nor be flattered by any: and for what you came about, I shall not be squeamish to fulfil your request, let me therefore desire you, to lend me your attention; and thereupon (after some short pause) she thus began.

*A Prince that never shall be Born,
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn.
Then shall Commons rise in Armes,
And Womens Malice cause much harmes.
O deadly Pride! O hateful Strife!
Brothers to seek each others Life.
Ambition shall so deadly spread.
The Griffin fierce shall lose his Head.
Soon after shall the Lyon die,
And mildness usher Cruelty*

These

These ten lines being Prophecies of the Actions in King *Edwards* Reign; for the Readers benefit; (before we proceed any further in her Predictions,) we will unfold the meaning of them by themselves, that we may not too much burthen their memory; but by variety add a pleasure to the reading of them.

*A Prince that never shall be born.
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn.*

By the Prince *that never shall be born*, is meant King *Edward* the Sixth, of whom all reports do constantly run, that he was not by Natural Passage delivered into the World, but that his Mothers Body was opened for his Birth, that that she died of the Incision the fourth day following; and by the *Shaved Heads*, is understood the *Monks, Fryars, &c.* who are said to be become *forlorn*: the Reformation beginning, with the beginning of King *Edwards* Reign: and the *Popes Priests* put down, as his Supremacy was before.

Then shall Commons rise in Armes.

King *Edward* having set out certain Injunctions, for the Reformation of Religion, as the Commissioners passed to divers places for the establishing of them, many scorns were cast upon them, and the farther they went from *London*, as the people were more uncivil, so did they more rise into insolencie and contempt; for in *Cornwel*, the Commons flocked together, having killed one of the Commissioners, and albeit Justice was done upon the offenders, the principle of them being Executed in several places, yet could not their boldness be beaten down with that severity, but that the mischief spread farther, in *Wilt-shire*, and *Somerset-shire*, where the people supposing that a *Common-Waith* could not stand without Commons, beat down Inclosures, and laid Parks, and Fields, Champion. The like Commotions followed in *Suffex*, *Hamp-shire*, *Kent*, *Glocester-shire*, *Warwick-shire*, *Essex*, *Hartford-shire*, *Leicester-shire*, *Worcester-shire*, and *Rutland-shire*, but the greatest of all, was in *Devon-shire* and *Norfolk*: the one Headed by *Henry Arundel* Esquire, Governour of the Mount in *Cornwel*, the other by *Robert Ket* a Tanner of *Windham* in *Norfolk*: Those of *Devon-shire*, were accounted above ten thousand, who with a close and smart Siege, Surrounded the City of *Exeter*, which they brought to extream misery, having a potent Foe abroad, and Famine sorely raging within; insomuch, as they were fain to bake Bran and meal moulded up in Clothes, for otherwise it would not stick together; at last the Rebels were routed from thence, by the Lord *Privy Seal*, with the loss of a Thousand of their Number, and soon after rotally routed, at a place called *Clift-beath*. Those of *Norfolk*, were judged to be more dangerous; both because their strength was great, being estimated to be above Twenty Thousand; as also the City of *Norwich* was a friend unto them, or at least wished them no harm: This ruderout Encamped on *Monkbold-hill*, a place impregnable in some sort, being neer to *Norwich*; against whom was sent the Marquess of *Northampton*, and afterwards the Earl of *Warwick*, who made many Sallies upon the Rebels, with various success; had the Rebels kept in this Fort, they might have tired out the Earl, his Horse being useles against them; but they relying on an old Prophecie, came down into *Duffin Dale* and quitted the Fort:

CHAP. XI.

Her Prophecies concerning the Death of the Lady Jane Grey, the burning of the Martyrs, of Wyats Rebellion, the Death of Queen Mary, and Cardinal Pool.

A virtuous Lady then shall die,
For being raised up too high.

The Lady Jane Grey, who out of dutifulness to her parents, assuming the Title of Queen upon her, for her offence, lost her head: This Lady Jane was a woman of most rare and incomparable perfections; for besides her excellent beauty, adorned with all variety of virtues, as a clear sky with Starrs, as a princely Diadem with Jewels; she was the mirror of her time, for her Religion and Education in the Knowledge of the Liberal Sciences, and skill in Languages, for in Theology, in Philosophy, in all the Liberal Arts, in the Latine and Greek Tongues, and in the Vulgar Languages of divers near Nations, she far exceeded all of her Sex, and every one of her years.

*Her Death shall cause anothers joy,
Who will the Kingdom much annoy.*

The Death of the Lady Jane was supposed to be a rejoycing to Queen Mary, and who by restoring Popery, and the Persecutions that the Professors of the Gospel suffered in her time, is said to bring the Kingdom to annoy.

*Miters shall rise, Miters come down,
And streams of Blood shall Smithfield drown.*

By the Miters are meant the Bishops, who in the Change of Religion found great Change; very few of them keeping their Seats wherein they had been seated by King Edward the sixth the names of the Bishops thus put down, were these, Cranmer Arch. Bishop of Canterbury, Ridley Bishop of London, Poynt Bishop of Winchester, Holgate Arch-bishop of York, Bush Bishop of Bristol, Bird Bishop of Chester, Haeger Bishop of Worcester and Gloucester, Barlo Bishop of Bath and Wells, Seery Bishop of Chichester, Ferrar Bishop of St. Davids, Coverdale Bishop of Exeter, Taylor Bishop of Lincoln, and Harley Bishop of Hereford; in the room of these Bishops thus put down, several Bishops were raised, as Cardinal Pool made Arch-bishop of Canterbury, Bonner Bishop of London, Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, Heath Arch-bishop of York, Holesman Bishop of Bristol, Cotes Bishop of Chester, Brook Bishop of Gloucester, Pates Bishop of Worcester, Bourn Bishop of Bath and Wells, Christopherson Bishop of Chichester, Morgan Bishop of St. Davids, Tuberville Bishop of Exeter, White Bishop of Lincoln, and Parfew Bishop of Hereford.

And streams of Blood shall Smithfield drown.

Great was the number of Martyrs burned in Smithfield in this Queens Reign, under the Bloody hands of Bonner Bishop of London, and Dr. Story Dean of St. Pauls; the first persecuting by wholesale, the second by retails; the names of all those who in this place thus testified their Faith, by the loss of their Lives, would be too long here to recite: the chief of them were, Mr. John Rogers, Mr. John Bradford, Mr. Robert Glouc, &c.

*England shall joyn in League with Spain,
Which some to hinder strive in vain.*

Queen *Mary* intending to match her self with *Philip* King of *Spain*, the bruit thereof being spread amongst the people, was by them ill resented, as dreading to be under the yoke of a stranger; to hinder the same (amongst others) *Sir Thomas Wyat*, a *Kentish Knight*, took Armes, with a great party assisting him. The Queen hearing of his Commotion, sent a Herald to him to desist, which he refusing to do, she resolves upon force, sending the Duke of *Norfolk* with five hundred *Londoners* against him; but these Soldiers bearing more affection to *Wyats* cause than the Queens, forsook their Leader, and their Loyalty together, and joyned themselves with *Wyats* Faction; who much elated with this supply, presently resolves for *London*, promising to himself easie entrance into that City, and hearty entertainment therein; but contrary to his expectation, coming to *Southwark*, he found all the Towers of the *Tower*; and the tops of the square Steeples neer the Bridge, foot on the other side, planted with Ordnance against him, so that both Church and State threatned his ruine; so that seeing no good to be done there, with a swift March (having the Darknes of the Night for his Coverture) he hasteth to *Kingston*, passeth the River, and comes to *Knights-Bridge*, before almost any had notice of his Motion.

Here he divides his Army into two parts, Five hundred of them wheels down towards *White-Hall*, but could not force their passage into it; Himself with the rest of the Army went directly to *Charing-Cross*, where he met with some opposition, but nothing daunted thereat, he marched directly down the *Strand* and *Fleet-street*, and coming to *Ludgate* promised himself entrance into the City, but finding the Gate close shut, and well fortified against him, with Men and Ammunition, his hopes then began to fail him; retreating to *Temple-Bar*, he was faced with some Horse, where after a short Fight, he submitted himself Prisoner, being first carried to *White-Hall* to be examined, from thence to the *Tower*, and soon after to the Scaffold, where he received the rewards of his Rebellion.

*The Lyoness from life retires,
And Pontifical Priest Expires.*

By the *Lyoness* is meant Queen *Mary*, who having Reigned five years and some odd months, dyed of a Dropsie, though others say of Grief for the absence of her Husband King *Philip*, and others again, for *Calice* (taken not long before) and that she should say, if after she was dead they ripped her up, they would find *Calice* written on her heart.

The Pontifical Priest signified Cardinal *Pool*, who expired within a few hours after the Death of Queen *Mary*. This Prelate was of Princely extraction, his Mother *Margaret* being Daughter to George Duke of *Clarence*; when he was young, he was brought up together with Queen *Mary*, and being a zealous Catholick during King *Edwards* Reign, suffered a voluntary exile for the same; when the marriage with Prince *Philip* and Queen *Mary* was made up, he returned into *England*, was made Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, more moderate than some other of his fellow Bishops, having a favourable inclination towards the Protestants; He survived the Queen but few hours, and was buried in his own Cathedral at *Canterbury*, with this short and modest Epitaphon his plain Monument *DEPOSITUM CARDINALIS POOL*.

CHAP. XII.

Her Prophecies concerning the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; the change of Religion; the attempts of the Papists, upon the Queen; the Spanish Invasion; the burning of Pauls Church; the death of the Queen of Scots; the reducing of Ireland; the beheading the Dutch of Essex, &c.

THe Lyon fierce being dead and gone,
A Maiden Queen shall Reign anon.

Those who fighted, then shall sing,
And the Bells shall Changes Ring.

The Papal power shall bear no sway,
Romes trash shall hence be swept away.

The Locusts sent from the seven Hills,
The English Rose shall seek to kill.

The Western Monarchs Wooden Horses,
Shall be destroyed by the Drakes forces.

Troy novant's Triumphant Spire,
Shall be consum'd with flames of Fire.

More wonders yet! a Widowed Queen,
In England shall be headless seen.

The Harp shall give a better sound,
An Earl without a Head be found.

Soon after shall the English Rose,
Unto a Male her place dispose.

These lines being a Prophecie of the most remarkable Actions during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, are to be interpreted after this manner.

The Lyon fierce being dead and gone,
A Maiden Queen shall Reign anon.

Queen Mary is here meant by the fierce Lyon; so called, not so much for the Cruelty done by her, as by the Bishops and Priests was done under her, for take her in her self, secluded from bloody Counsellors, and she was a most Merciful, Pious, Just Princee; but in respect of the Blood that was shed, and the Persecutions then suffered, she is here termed a fierce Lyon. After whom is said, A Maiden Queen to Reign anon, meant by Queen Elizabeth; one who was the Mirrour of her Sex and Age, who for above forty years, to the admiration of envy itself, managed the affairs of this Kingdom; having when she began, few friends that durst help, and leaving no Foes when she died that could hurt her; acting her part so well whilst here she Reigned; that History can scarcely afford us one Prince to be matched to her Fame, in all considerable particulars.

Those

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton,

*Those who sighed then shall sing,
And the Bells shall change Ring.*

Many who sat and sighed in the daies of Queen *Mary*, by reason of the hot persecution, being forced to forsake their Houses, because they would not forsake their Religion; now that Queen *Elizabeth* began to Reign, their mourning was turned into joy, their sighing into singing; returning from their exile, with Psalmes of thanksgiving in their mouths: where their Bells rang such Changes in Religion, that the Mass was put down, and the Common Prayer set up: Popery banished, and reformation established; the Ministers of the Gospel advanced, and the Shaveling Priests, Monks and Fryers, depressed.

*The Papal Power shall bear us sway;
Romes trash shall hence be swept away.*

Soon after the Queens coming to the Crown, a Parliament began at Westminster, wherein the Laws of King *Henry* the eighth against the See of *Rome* were renewed, and those of King *Edward* the sixth, in favour of the Protestants revived, and the Laws by Queen *Mary* made against them repealed: Uniformity of Prayer and Administration of Sacraments was enacted with a Restitution of first Fruits and Tithes to the Crown; and the Queen acknowledged to be the only and Supream Governour of her Kingdomes: The People in each place beating down Superstitious Pictures and Images, which blind and misguided zeal had set up.

*The Locusts sent from the seven Hills,
The English Rose shall seek to kill.*

By the Locusts are meant the Priests, Fryers and Jesuits, who spread all the World over in greater numbers than the Locusts did in the Land of *Egypt*; and by the seven Hills is meant *Rome*, which is built upon seven Hills; and by the English Rose is signified Queen *Elizabeth*, whom the Priests and Jesuits by their Instruments did often attempt to kill; so that if we seriously consider her Reign, we shall scarcely find any Prince, whose life was so often attempted as hers, of which to give you some Examples would not be impertinent to our purpose, and first in her Sisters Reign; *Stephen Gardiner* Bishop of *Winchester*, and other *Romanists*, offended with her Religion, so wrought with Queen *Mary*, suggesting that she was consenting to *Wyatts* insurrection, that she was sent prisoner to the Tower, and (as it is said) a Warrant intended to be sealed for her Execution, had not King *Philip* interceded. After she came to the Crown she was as incident to troubles as the month *April* is to showres, *Spain* *France* and *Scotland* combining against her, *Pope Pius Quintus* by his Bull depose her, in prosecution whereof, the Earles of *Northumberland* and *Westmoreland* rise up in Rebellion, being to have been assisted by the Duke *D'alva* out of the Low-Countries, but out of these troubles she was delivered by their Confusion. After these *Leonard Dakers*, second son to *William Lord Dakers* of *Gellesland*, endeavoured to bring her into trouble, being intrusted by her with competent forces, which he intending to have employed to her detriment failed in his hopes and Power; and brought both shame and ruine to himself. Next did *Thomas* and *Edward Stanley* younger sons to the Earl of *Darby*, with several others, plot against her; all which ended in their Ruine and her safety. These failing, Captain *Stukley* promised to perform wonders against her, but his mountaines proved not so much as mole-hills, he being slain in *Barberry*, his design failed. But to speak of personal attempts against her, one *Somerville* drew his Sword in the Court to have slain her: Doctor *Parry* a spaniolized Italian intended to have Pistoled her as she walked in her privy Garden: *Savage*, *Windsor*, *Salisbury*,

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

21

Salisbury, Tilney and others, conspired to kill her, the which they waited several times to effect: one *William Stafford* by the intigation of the *French Ambassador*, undertook to kill her: *Doctor Loper* one of her sworn Physicians, for a sum of money, engaged to Poison her: and to conclude all, one *Edwards Squire*, formerly belonging to her Stable, with a mortiferous confection, Poisoned the Pannel of her Saddle, when she was riding out, from all which notwithstanding, though she were maliciously poisoned, she was miraculously preserved, and died in peace, *March 24, 1603*; thus avenged all the malice of her enemies.

*The Western Monarchs Wooden Horses,
Shall be destroyed by the Drakes Forces.*

By the *Western Monarchs Wooden Horses*, is meant the *King of Spains* great Armado, in the year 1588, by them termed *Invincible*, though the success of it answered not the name, being by *Sr. Francis Drake* and others, brave sons of *Neptune*, and soldiers of *Mary*, met withal, fought with, and really vanquish't, most of it sunk, and the rest destitute and scatter'd, being chased by our Ships, past the 57 degree of *Northern Latitude*, and there left to be pursued by hunger and cold; a victory so remarkable, that time, nor age, will ever wear the remembrance thereof away.

*Troy novant's Triumphant Spire,
Shall be consumed with Flumes of Fire.*

By *Troy novant* is meant *London*, which in ancient writings is called *Troy novant*; and the *Triumphant Spire*, signifies *Pauls-church* which in the year 1561, the fourth of *June*, strangely fell on fire, burning for the space of five full hours, in which time it melted all the Lead off the Church, only the Stone Arches escaping the fury thereof; sundry causes were attributed by sundry persons, of this fire; some that it was casually blasted with Lightning; others, that it was mischievously done by Art, Magick; and others (which was most likely) done by the negligence of a *Plummer* carelessly leaving his coals therein. The Queen was much grieved for this mischance, but by her bounty, the Cities liberality, and a Contribution from the Clergy, it was afterwards repaired, only the blunt Tower had not the top thereof sharpened into a spire as before.

*More wonders yet, a widowed Queen,
In England shall be headless seen.*

The *Widowed Queen* signifies the Queen of *Scots*, the Mother of *King James*, who was beheaded at *Fotheringhay-Castle*, some say by the privy, others to the great discontent of Queen *Elizabeth*: A Lady of a sharp wit, undaunted spirit, comely person, Beautiful face, Majestick presence, a fluent Orator, and an excellent Poet, as may appear by several things of her writing now extant; amongst others of her verses, this was one, which she wrote with a pointed Diamond, in a window, during her Imprisonment in *Fotheringhay-Castle*.

*From the top of all my trust,
Misbap bath laid me in the Dust.*

She was beheaded the 8th day of *February*, Anno 1587, and was first buried in the Quire of *Peterborough*, afterwards by her son *King James*, solemnly removed from thence to *Westminster*, where in the South side of the Chappel of *King Henry* the seventh, he erected a stately monument to her memory. The following is an

[Extra]

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton

[*Extracts from the Burial Register of the Cathedral at Peterborough.*]

The Queene of Scots, 1587, was most sumptuously buried in the Cathedral Church of Peterborough, the first day of August, who was for her desertts beheaded at Fotheringgay, about Sainte Paule's day before! Anthony More one of the Children of the Queene's Maies Kitchen, who followed at the funerall aforesaid of the Q. of S. was buried the iij day.

The Harp shall give a better sound.

The Harp signifies Ireland, as being the Armes of that Country, which Queen Elizabeth by reducing to a better obedience, made it give a better sound, that is, made it more civilized, and profitable to the Exchequer then ever before.

An Earl without a Head be found.

This was spoken of the Earl of Essex, one who was the favourite of the Queen, and darling of the people; (two things which seldom come together,) and yet could not both of them protect him from the Scaffold, but that thereon he lost his Head.

*Soon after shall the English Rose,
Unto a Male, her place Dispose.*

By the English Rose, is meant Queen Elizabeth, as we said before; by whose Death, the Right and Title to the Crown, came to James the sixth, King of Scotland, as lineally descended from Margaret the Elder, Daughter to King Henry, the seventh; the issue Male failing, by the Death of Queen Elizabeth; and there is to be remembered, the Policy of King Henry the Seventh, who having two Daughters, Married the Eldest of them to the King of Scotland; and the youngest to the King of France, that if his issue Male should happen to fail (as it afterwards did) then Scotland might wait upon England as the greater Kingdom, and not England upon France as the lesser: Besides there was an old Prophecie, which intimated King James his coming to the English Crown; for when King Edward, the First harased Scotland, amongst other things he brought from thence their Royal Chair, (still preserved at the Abbey in Westminster) upon which Chair these verses were writ.

If Fates go right, where ere this Chaire is Pight,

The Royal Race of Scots shall rule that Place.

Which by the Coronation of King James there performed, made good the words of the Prophecie.

CHAP. XXIII.

The Prophecies of the Reign of King James, his uniting England and Scotland, his Peaceable Reign, a learned time, the Powder Treason, the Marriage with the Prince Elector, and Lady Elizabeth; the Death of Prince Henry.

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,

The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,

And joyn in one, two mighty States,

James then shall show his Gates.

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

23

Mars shall yield to Mercury,

All things tend to Prosperity.

Hells power by a fatal blow,

Shall seek the Land to overthrow.

Which by mistake shall be reverse,

And heads from shoulders be disperse.

The British Olive next shall twine

In marriage with the German Vine.

The Ninth to Death his power shall yield

Death conquers all, he wins the Field.

Next follows the remarkable actions of King James's Reign, predicted in the foregoing lines, which may be thus explained.

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,

The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,

And join in one, Two mighty States.

By the Northern Lyon, is meant King James; and by the Maiden Queen, Queen Elizabeth, whom King James, being King of Scotland succeeded in the English Crown, joyned thereby the two Nations of England and Scotland, which had been often attempted before, not only by Conquest, but by Marriage; once by Conquest, by King Edward the first, who subdued their Armies, took their strong places, and made their Nobles yield him obedience; yet what they thus lost by him, they recovered of his son King Edward the second; the other of Marriage, was by King Henry the eighth, who endeavoured to have matched his son, Prince Edward, with the Heiress of Scotland, and had proceeded very far therein, when death cut him off; and though afterwards attempted by the Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, and the Scots beaten at Musselborough field, yet all would not prevail; God having decreed their union to be afterwards, in a more peaceable manner.

Janus then shall shut his Gates.

Janus was one of the gods belonging to the ancient Romans; whose Temple was never shut, but in the daies of Peace, which happened not above twice, in the space of two thousand years: King James his Reign being a very peaceable time, when Swords rusted in their Sheathes for want of using them; Mother Shipton in her Prophecie alludes thereto.

Mars shall yield to Mercury,

All things tend to prosperity.

War shall give place to Peace, fighting to pleading, the Sword to the Gown, the Pike to the Pen, Barbarism to Learning, &c. this Peace shall cause Plenty, Plenty work prosperity, &c.

Hells Power by a fatal Blow,

Shall seek the Land to overthrow.

Which by mistake shall be reverse.

And Heads from Shoulders be disperse.

These

These Lines have reference to the horrid Powder Plot, which was to have been acted by some desperate Papists, to have blown up the Parliament House with Gun-powder, and therein out Religion, Laws, King, Prince, Peers, Bishops, Judges, Knights and Burgesses, all designed to Destruction: The chief actors herein were, *Robert Catesby, Thomas Percy, Sir Everard Digby, Francis Tresham, Robert Winster, Thomas Winster, John Wright, Christ. Wright, Ambrose Rookwood, Robert Key, John Graunt, Guido Faux, and Bates*, Catesbyes man; Gentlemen, most of Ancient Families, some of plentiful Fortunes, but all of resolute Spirits: These being suggested by the Devil, and seconded by his Agents, the Jesuits, to bring their purpose about, hired a Vault under the Parliament House, wherein they stowed thirty six Barrels of Powder, with several Iron bars, to make the force of the fire more effectual, all which they covered with Billets, thinking thereby to have covered their Design, from being discovered: On the Fifth of November, the day of the Parliaments first sitting, was the time appointed, to put their Design in execution; but Providence had ordered otherwise, that those who intended mischief, should taste the effects of it; on the Evening before, came to the Lord Montague, a strange Letter, from a strange hand, by a strange messenger; without Date to it, name at it, and (to outward appearance) sealed in it: A Letter which when it was opened, was even first Sealed; such the affected obscurity therein: The Letter contained these words,

My Lord,

Out of the Love I bear to some of your Friends, I have a care of your Preservation; therefore I would advise you, as you tender your Life, to devise some excuse, to shift off your attendance at this Parliament: For God and Man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not slightly of this Advertisement, but retire your self into your Country, where you may expect the Event in safety: For though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say, they shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them: This counsel is not to be Contemned, because it may do you good, and can do you no harm; for the danger is past so soon as you have burnt the Letter; and I hope God will give you the grace to make good use of it: to whose holy Protection I commend you.

This Letter being communicated to the King, he expounded the mystical Blow, to be meant by Gun-powder, and thereupon commanded the Rooms under the Parliament House to be searcht, where the *Mystery of Iniquity* was quickly discovered, some of the Traitors taken in London, others in the Country; the hands of Justice overtaking them, they became examples of Justice, and tasted of that Cup (though not with that Cruelty) which they intended others should have drank of.

*The British Olive next shall twine,
In Marriage with the German Vine.*

By the *British Olive*, is meant the Lady Elizabeth, Daughter to King James; and by the *German Vine*, the most illustrious Prince Frederick, Count Palatine of the Rhine; this Lady Elizabeth was enriched with all the endowments both of Body and mind, which make to the compleating of a Princess; most dearly beloved of the English, as one that deserved well of all; hear a wit of that age thus complaining.

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton,

25

*Most sweet Elizabeth! that happy Name,
If we lost nothing else by losing thee,
So dear to England is, we are too blame:
If without tears and sighs we parted be.*

They were married with great solemnity, at Westminster, February 14, Anno 1612.

*The Ninth to Death his Power shall yield.
Death Conquers all, he wins the Field*

This is meant of Prince Henry, who is here called the Ninth, in regard that if he had lived till King James dyed, he would have been the Ninth King of that name, since the Conquest: He was a Prince of most excellent parts, not wanting any thing wherewith Nature and Art could enrich him; of a very Pious disposition, never heard by any alive to swear an Oath, for which Arch-bishop Abbot commended him in his Funeral Sermon, the Prince being wont to say, *That he knew no Game, or value to be wagers or lost, that could be worth an Oath.* He died of an extraordinary burning Feaver, being generally lamented of the whole Land.

CHAP. XIV.

The Prophecies of the Reign of King Charles the First, his Marriage with France; the Murder of the Duke of Buckingham; the Scottish Troubles; of the Long Parliament, and Bloody War ensuing after; the execrable Murder of the King.

Mother Shipton having proceeded thus far in her Prophecies, broke off abruptly with a deep sigh, the tears trickling down her Cheeks, accompanied with the wringing of her hands; as if some extraordinary mischance had befallen her. The Abbot wondered greatly, what should be the cause of this sudden alteration, having observed all along before a settled composedness in her countenance, and now to break out into such exclamations: He therefore thus said unto her, *Mother Shipton*, it is more than some ordinary matter which hath made you to break out into this sudden passion; and if it may not be troublesome unto you, I shall desire, that as hitherto you have not been scrupulous in revealing those secrets unto me, which have wrought in me both wonder and amazement, so that now you will not so abruptly break off, as to leave me in suspense of the cause of your sorrow: *Ah Mr. Abbot* (said she) *who can with dry eyes repeat what must next ensue, or but think upon it without a heart full of Agony; to see virtue trampled on, and vice exalted; Beggars on Horse back, and Princes on foot; the Innocent condemned, and the Blood-thirsty go foot-free: But since my promise binds me to fulfil your request, I shall proceed where I left.*

The Life and Death of Mother Shipron.

The Crown then fits the White Kings Head,

Who with the Lillies soon shall wed;

Then shall a Peasants bloody Knife,

Deprive a great Man of his Life.

Forth from the North shall mischief blow,

And English Hob shall add thereto.

Then shall the Council great Assembly,

Who shall make great and small to tremble.

Mars shall rage as he were wroed,

And Earth shall drunken be with blood.

The White King then (O grief to see)

By wicked Hands shall Murdered be;

These lines are so plain, relating to the Actions of the late times, as shall need no *Oedipus* to explain them; however, as we have all along before made several Comments upon her Text, we shall here likewise proceed in the same Method as we did before.

The Crown then fits the White Kings Head.

By the *White King*, is meant King *Charles* the first, so called not only in respect of the purity and uprightness of his life, signified by *White*; but also that at the time of his Coronation he was clothed in *White*, which some venomous tongues have since urged against him, that he was not Crowned as other Kings, as if Princes might not have the same liberty as meaner persons, to assume what coloured Garb they list to wear, to themselves.

Who with the Lillies soon shall wed.

Somewhat before King *James* his Death a marriage was concluded on betwixt Prince *Charles*, and the *Lady Henrietta Maria*, Daughter to that Martial Prince *Henry* the fourth, King of *France*; but before the Consummation thereof, King *James* dyed, not long after his Funerals were over, she was brought into *England*, and solemnly married to King *Charles*, who is hereupon said to wed the *Lillies*; the *Lillies* being the Armes of *France*.

Then shall a Peasants bloody Knife,

Deprive a great Man of his Life.

This is spoken of the Duke of *Buckingham*, the greatest man in favour of those times, and thereupon (as it is most commonly seen) most hated of the People; who laid the blame of all miscarriages in the State upon him; right or wrong he was sure to undergo their censure: Being made General for the Relief of *Rechel* (then besieged by the *French Forces*) before he embarked at *Portsmouth*, he was most villanously Stabbed by one *Felton* a discontented Officer in his Army; who was so far from flying for the same, that though he might have passed away undiscovered, he boldly avowed himself to be the man that did it; alledging, that he had therein done his Country good service; but before his Death was better Principled, and made sensible of the heinousness of the sin of Murder, recanting his former erroneous Principles, and dying very Penitently, being hanged in Chains at *Portsmouth*, Anno 1627.

Forth

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

22

*Forth from the North shall mischief blow,
And English Hob shall add thereto.*

|| This Propheſie alludes to that ancient Proverb, *From the cold North, all ill comes forth*; and may be underſtood of our troubles commencing in 1639, taking their original riſe from *Scotland*, and fomented by ſeveral Factious Spirits, in *England*, the Dagon of Preſbytery beginning then to appeare in its own colours, the *Kirk of Scotland* having ſo high an opinion of its own purity, that it participated more of *Moſes* his Platform in the *Mount*, than other Proteſtant Churches, being a *Reformed Reformation*; ſo that the practice thereof might be diverſity to others and ſhe fit to give, not take; write, not receive Copies from any Neighbouring Church; deſiring that all others were like unto them, *ſave only in their afflictions*. Hereupon they ſtood ſo high upon their pantoffles, that they reſuſed the Common-prayer, diſclaimed their Biſhops, raiſed Tumults, and under the pretence of defending the *Scottiſh Kirk*, raiſed a War againſt the *Engliſh State*; the venom of which poiſon ſo infected the veins of the *Engliſh*, who followed this *Scottiſh* Preſident, that it brake forth into a moſt bitter War, and ended not, but with the deaths of many thouſands of people.

*Then ſhall the Council great aſſemble
Who ſhall make great and ſmall to ſremblers*

By the *great Council* is meant the long-laſting Parliament, ſo known to all poſterity, for the remarkable tranſactions therein: It began *November* the 3d, 1640, and may more properly be ſaid, to be the Parliament *that wrought wonders*, then that in the time of King *Henry the Third*, which had the ſame appellation. By them fell the wiſe *Strafford*, and Reverend *Laud*; by them was Episcopacy voted down, and Preſbytery voted up; by them was the Common-prayer denied, and the Directory exalted: they were the firſt that brought that ſtrange Riddle into the World, that a man may fight for and againſt his King; by them was the Oath *Ex Officio* condemned, and the Covenant (ſar worſe) applauded; in ſum, by them was the Church and State turned topſey turvey; but this cannot be reported of all amongſt them, many of them hated their doings, diſſented from them, and ſuffered by them.

*Mars ſhall rage as he were wood,
And Earth ſhall drunken be with Blood:*

To repeat all the Skirmiſhes, Fights, and Battels that have happened betwixt the Kings and Parliaments Forces (here intended by this Propheſie) would of its ſelf, require a Volume; in ſome of which, viz. that at *Marston-moore*, eight thouſand men were killed at a time, ſo that the Earth might well be ſaid to be drunken with their Blood; and which is the more pity, this ſhed by *Engliſh* men of one Country, Citizens againſt Citizens, Neighbours againſt Neighbours; nay, one Kinſman againſt another, and proſecuted with the greateſt fury and vigor that might be, according to that of the Poet,

*The beſt fury reigns in Civil warr,
And Country-men in fight moſt cruel are.*

As was verified all along during our unnatural Civil War, none holding out with more obſtinacy, fighting more eagerly, nor in the execution more Bloody than they.

*The White King then (O grief to ſee)
By wicked hands ſhall Murdered be.*

Spoken

Spoken concerning the Execrable Murther of that Pious Prince King Charles the First the most Renowned for Piety, Prudence and Patience; of all his contemporary Princes throughout the whole World; of whom when all is said that can be spoken, yet doth all come farr short of his deserved praises: I shall therefore sum up all with this Epitaph made on him by a learned Pen.

He that can spel a Sigh, and read a Tear,
Pronounce amazement, and accent wild Fears:
Having all grief by Heart; He, only he,
Is fit to Write and Read thy Elegie.
Unvalued Charles! thou art so hard a Text,
Writ in one Age, not understood i'th Next.

CHAP. XV.

The Reign of King Charles the second, the Usurpation of Cromwel; the strange Confusion of a Democrital Government; the Restauration of the King; the great Sicknes; the Burning of the City of London.

The White King dead, the Wolf shall then
With blood possess the Lyons den.
But Death shall hurry him away,
Confusion shall awhile bear sway:
But Fate to England shall restore,
A King to Reign as heretofore.
Mercy, and Justice too, likewise,
He in his time shall exercise.
Great Death in London shall be thow;
And Men on tops of Houses go.

These Prophecies being all fulfilled in the memory of man, and sowell known unto the World, we shall be the briefer in the explanation of them.

*The White King dead, the Wolf shall then
With blood possess the Lyons den.*

By the *White King* (as we said before) is meant King Charles the First; and by the *Wolf*, Oliver Cromwel, so termed by reason of his bloody disposition; that had being judged most greedy and ravenous of all others; and therefore fitly resembled to Cromwel, whose ambition was such, that he left no means unattempted, until he had got into the *Lyons den*, that is to say, until he had attained the sole Government; which being done, he the plucked the *Sticks* down which he had mounted, turning the Rump out of dores, making them his Servants, who had formerly been his Masters; exercising his cruelty upon the Cavaliers, which he deemed double Policy, as being thereby rid of his Enemies, and enriching his Coopers with their Wealth, though it were in effect but Murther and Robbery, and Proclaimed him to be a Blood-thirsty-Tyrant.

But

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

29

But Death shall bury him away.

Very remarkable was the day in which the Protector dyed, being the Third of September Anno 1658, wherein the wind was so violent, that it overthrew many Houses, tore up many Trees by the Roots, tumbled down Chimneys, and unreav'd Barns and Stables; but as it is a very ill wind that blows none good, so with all the hurt this wind did, it made some recompence, in blowing this bloody Tyrant away, which made the people so little sensible of their losses, that they thought their private harms not to stand in competition with this general good.

Confusion shall awhile bear sway.

Spoken in respect of the Confusion of Governments we then had: First, a Rump Parliament, then a Protector, next a Rump Parliament again, then a Fool's Bauble, called a Committee of Safety, afterwards a Rump Parliament again; now thus; then that, a great many Governments, and none good.

But Fate to England shall restore.

A King to Reign, as heretofore.

This was fulfilled in the happy Restoration of King Charles the Second, which put a period to all those Oligarchical Confusions, and Restored the Land to its Ancient pristine Government; which till then, groaned under the pressurers of a Company of Mechanical (and therein the worst sort of) Tyrants.

*Mercy and Justice too likewise,
He in his time shall exercise.*

Of this many are the examples which might be produced; how many, though notorious Delinquents, received to Mercy? Life given to those, who would have taken his life away; few only suffering, but such whose offences were so Capital, as could not come well within the Verge of a Pardon, or stood upon Justification of their former execrable Actions: Such rotten members deserving to be cut off from the body of the Common-wealth, who otherwise would have been very obnoxious and prejudicial to those that were sound.

Great Death in London shall be thought.

Verified by the great Plague in London 1665, (which for number) was the greatest that hath been known in these later Centuries of years; and which (if not any thing else) might convince our Sectaries, how necessary that prayer in the Letany is for to be used, *From Plague, Pestilence and Famine, good Lord deliver us.*

And men in tops of Houses go.

This was suddenly fulfilled in that great Conflagration of Fire, which happened in London, Sept. 2, 3, and 4. Anno 1666, by which so many Houses were destroyed, that men afterwards in the Ruines, went on the tops of those Houses, whose lofty Structures not long before, seemed to brave the skie, and which would faze weak eyes to look up and behold the tops of them.

The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

Here follow other Prophecies she uttered, which because they concern Future Times, we shall leave to the Interpretation of the Intelligent Reader.

I.

*The Fiery Year as soon as 'ore,
Peace shall then be as before.
Plenty every where is found,
And Men with Swords shall plow the Ground.*

II.

*The Time shall come, when Seas of Blood,
Shall mingle with a greater Flood.*

III.

*Great noise there shall be heard, Great Shouts and Cries,
And Seas shall Thunder, louder than the Skyes.
Then shall three Lyons fight with Three, and bring,
Joy to a People, Honour to their King.*

This Mother Shipton, the Author of these, and the foregoing Prophecies, Lived till she was of an extraordinary Age; and though she was generally believed to be a Witch, yet all persons what ever, that either saw, or heard of her, had her in great esteem; and her memory to this day is much honoured by those of her own Country.

A stone was erected near Clifton, about a Mile from the city of York, from which the following is taken.



Epitaph.

*Here lies she who never ly'd,
Whose Will often has been try'd,
Her Prophecies shall still survive,
And ever keep her name alive.*

FINIS.

